

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4255

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PR UN

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 194115

SUMMARY: INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL CARRIED OUT MORNING AUGUST 16.
WANG HAI-JUNG, PERFORMING RATHER IMPRESSIVELY,
GAVE A PREDICTABLY UNHELPFUL INITIAL RESPONSE AND SAID SHE
WOULD REPORT TO HER GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS I CALLED ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
WANG HAI-JUNG AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT 11 A.M.
AUGUST 16. MY PRESENTATION FULLY COVERED POINTS IN
PARA TWA--(A), (B), (C), (D) AND (F) IN REFTEL. DRAWING ON
MY OWN SERVICE AT THE UN I EMPHASIZED GREAT
SENSITIVITY OF USG AND PUBLIC TO ANY UN CONSIDERATION
OF PUERTO RICO. I CONCLUDED BY STATING "SHOULD YOUR
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT CUBA'S ACTION ON THIS MATTER, WE
WOULD TAKE VERY STRONG EXCEPTION AND IT COULD NOT
BE WITHOUT EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT."

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY TANG), WHO WAS
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INTERPRETING, THEN BRIEFED WANG ON CHINA'S PAST UN POSITIONS ON

THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AFTER WHICH WANG SUMMARIZED THESE POSITIONS TO ME, JUSTIFYING THEM ON BASIS OF COMMUNISTS' OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT REVOLUTION. SHE NEXT SAID THAT IF CHINESE STANCE ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AFFECTED SINO-U.S. RELATIONS, RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE ON THE U.S. SIDE. CITING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, SHE (PROMPTED BY TANG) DECRIED OUR EMPLOYMENT OF "THREATENING LANGUAGE." IN ENSUING DISCUSSION I DENIED ANY THREAT BUT AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY OF THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN THE U.S. AND SAID I WOULD NOT BE DOING MY JOB IF I DID NOT MAKE MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION CLEAR: THAT CHINESE SUPPORT OF CUBAN EFFORTS TO INTERFERE IN U.S. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COULD NOT BE WITHOUT EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS.

3. WANG, WHO HAD NOT EARLIER SO QUALIFIED HER REMARKS, THEN SAID SHE HAD OF COURSE BEEN OFFERING HER PERSONAL VIEWS AND THAT SHE WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO HER GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: I WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE EXCHANGE AS AMICABLE BUT LIVELY. WANG, THOUGH OPERATING FROM BOILERPLATE, SHOWED MORE SPARK AND AUTHORITY, AND I MIGHT ADD CHARM, THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS. THE MEETING ENDED WITH DISCUSSIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADESH ABOUT WHICH NEITHER SIDE HAD MUCH INFORMATION AND WE SAID WE MIGHT DISCUSS THESE FURTHER AT THE LUNCHEON I AM GIVING FOR WANG ON THE 18TH.
BUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING01562
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750284-0063
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750845/aaaabnmu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 194115
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, RQ, CU, CH, US, UN, (WANG HAI-JUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006